

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Marine Reservist Pleads Guilty To Unauthorized Shipping from Iraq** *Expedited Shipping Costs Government \$22,351*

ROCK ISLAND, IL – The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a U.S. Marine Reservist pled guilty today to mail fraud related to more than \$22,000 in unauthorized shipping expenses to send equipment from Iraq to the Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department. David Liske, age 36, of Comanche, Iowa, is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Unit headquartered on the Rock Island Arsenal and is employed as a civilian firefighter with the Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department. Liske appeared this morning before U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm in Peoria, Illinois.

Liske served an active-duty assignment in Iraq from September 2004 to March 2005, as supervisor of the Marines' welding and metal-working shop at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. From September 2004 through December 2004, Liske accumulated a variety of welding and metal-working equipment valued at approximately \$7,819. The equipment included items such as a drill, plasma arc cutter, cutoff saw, circular saw, grinders, wrenches and drill bits.

In the plea agreement and during court proceedings, Liske admitted that in December 2004, he placed the equipment, approximately 1,155 pounds, into a military shipping container and prepared and submitted a requisition for shipping the container via Federal Express to the Rock Island Arsenal at a cost of \$22,351. Liske admitted he had neither sought or obtained any authorizations within the Marine Corps for the shipment because he knew such authorization would not have been granted.

Sentencing has been scheduled for February 9, 2007. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Liske has agreed to pay restitution of at least \$22,351. Furthermore, the defendant and the government have agreed that a term of probation is the appropriate sentence in this case.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Jeffrey B. Lang, Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Central District of Illinois' Rock Island Division.

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